What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming one fold extending in a transverse direction by bringing a portion of the initial upper surface into a facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, the one fold being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges, the resulting partially-folded article having an intermediate first surface, an intermediate second surface and opposing second transverse end edges, and thereafter forming a number, greater than one, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending accordion-like folds being spaced between opposing second transverse end edges.

2. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is an even number.

3. (Original) The method described in claim 2, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is 2.

4. (Original) The method described in claim 2, wherein the one fold extending in a transverse direction is located substantially adjacent the transverse centerline.

5. (Original) The method described in claim 4, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

6. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 5 and having a folded configuration, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.08.

7. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 6, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

8. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

9. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 8 and having a folded configuration, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.15.

10. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 9, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no less than 0.04.

11. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

12. (Original) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges, side margins, opposing terminal side edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming at least one longitudinally extending fold in each side margin by folding each first longitudinal side edge inward toward the initial upper surface and thus bringing at least a portion of the initial upper surface into facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, then forming one fold extending in a transverse direction by bringing a portion of the initial upper surface into a facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, the one fold being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges, the resulting partially-folded article having an intermediate first surface, an intermediate second surface, opposing second longitudinal side edges and opposing second transverse end edges, and thereafter forming a number, greater than one, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending accordion-like folds being spaced between opposing second transverse end edges.

13. (Original) The method described in claim 12, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is an even number.

14. (Original) The method described in claim 13, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is 2.

15. (Original) The method described in claim 13, wherein the one fold extending in a transverse direction is located substantially adjacent the transverse centerline.

16. (Original) The method described in claim 15, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

17. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 16 and having a folded configuration, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.08.

18. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 17, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

19. (Original) The method described in claim 12, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

20. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 19 and having a folded configuration, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded

configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.15.

21. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 20, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no less than 0.04.

22. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 21, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

23. (Original) A disposable absorbent article comprising a topsheet, a backsheet and an absorbent core situated between the topsheet and the backsheet, the article having a folded configuration and an unfolded configuration, the article in the unfolded configuration having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges and opposing first transverse end edges, the article having a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.15.

24. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no less than 0.04

25. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 24, wherein the article is folded according the method comprising: forming one fold extending in a transverse direction by bringing a portion of the initial upper surface into a facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, the one fold being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges, the resulting partially-folded article having an intermediate first surface, an intermediate second surface and opposing second transverse end edges, and thereafter forming a number, greater than one, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing second transverse end edges.

26. (Original) The method described in claim 25, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is 2.

27. (Original) The method described in claim 26, wherein the one fold extending in a transverse direction is located substantially adjacent the transverse centerline.

28. (Original) The method described in claim 27, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

29. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 28, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

30. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the article is folded according the method comprising: forming a number, greater than two, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing first

transverse end edges.

31. (Original) The method described in claim 30, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is 5.

32. (Original) The method described in claim 31, wherein the transversely-extending accordion-like folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing first transverse end edges.

33. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 32, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

34. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 23, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper having a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.09.

35. (Original) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming a number, greater than two, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges.

36. (Original) The method described in claim 35, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number.

37. (Original) The method described in claim 35, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number greater than 4.

38. (Original) The method described in claim 37, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is 5.

39. (Original) The method described in claim 38, wherein the transversely-extending accordion-like folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing first transverse end edges.

40. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 39.

41. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 40, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

42. (Original) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges, side margins, opposing terminal side edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming at least one

longitudinally extending fold in each side margin by folding each first longitudinal side edge inward toward the initial upper surface and thus bringing at least a portion of the initial upper surface into facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, then forming a number, greater than two, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges.

43. (Original) The method described in claim 42, wherein the number of transversely extending acco(Original) rdion-like folds is an odd number.

44. (Original) The method described in claim 42, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number greater than 4.

45. (Original) The method described in claim 44, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is 5.

46. (Original) The method described in claim 45, wherein the transversely-extending accordion-like folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing first transverse end edges.

47. (Original) A disposable absorbent article folded according to the method described in claim 46.

48. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of claim 47, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.